



# SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Is it possible to read scripture wrong? Professor William Barclay thinks so. Here are his thoughts based on John 5:37-43. “The Jewish authorities searched the law and yet failed to recognize Jesus Christ when he came. What was wrong? The best Bible students in the world, people who meticulously and continuously read Scripture, rejected Jesus. How could that happen?

“One thing is clear – they read Scripture in the wrong way. 1.) They read it with a shut mind. They read it not to search for God but to find arguments to support their own positions. They did not really love God; they loved their own ideas about him. Water has as much chance of getting into concrete as the word of God had of getting into their minds. They did not humbly learn a theology from Scripture; they used Scripture to defend a theology which they themselves had produced. There is still danger that we should use the Bible to prove our beliefs and not to test them.” *(That’s called eisegesis. A process where one leads into study by reading a text on the basis of pre-conceived ideas of its meanings. It is rare for someone to be called an ‘eisegete’, because eisegesis has a well-earned negative reputation. On the other hand, exegesis is the means of using the words of the text in Scripture, through the lens of their original context, to determine their intent. In other words, if one analyzes Scripture exegetically, they won’t come to the text with any conclusions. They let the text itself reveal what the writer is revealing to the reader.)*

Professor Barclay continues, “ 2.) The Jewish authorities made a still bigger mistake – they regarded God as having given a written revelation. The revelation of God is a revelation in history. It is not God speaking, but God acting. The Bible itself is not God’s revelation; it is the record of God’s revelation. But they worshipped the Bible’s words. There is only one proper way to read the Bible – to read it as all pointing to Jesus Christ. Then many of the things which puzzle us,

and sometimes distress us, are clearly seen as stages on the way, a pointing forward to Jesus Christ, who is the supreme revelation and by whose light all other revelation is to be tested. The Jewish authorities worshipped a God who wrote rather than a God who acted, and therefore when Christ came they did not recognize him. The function of the Scripture is not to give life but to point to him who can.

In John 5:31-39 Jesus says, “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.<sup>32</sup> There is another (John the Baptist) who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true.<sup>33</sup> You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth.<sup>34</sup> Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved.<sup>35</sup> He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.<sup>36</sup> But I have a testimony greater than John’s. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me.<sup>37</sup> And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form,<sup>38</sup> and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.<sup>39</sup> You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf.<sup>40</sup> Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”

Professor Barclay continues, “In verse 34, Jesus had said the purpose of his words was ‘that you may be saved’. There is something tremendous here. When people oppose us and we argue back, what is our main feeling? Wounded pride? The conceit that hates any kind of failure? Annoyance? A desire to cram our opinions down other people’s throats? Jesus talked as he did only because he loved men and women. His voice might be stern, but in the sternness, there was still the accent of yearning love; his eyes might flash fire, but the flame was the flame of love.”

### **Words for your consideration.**

Peace and blessings, Pastor Rosemary

## September Birthdays:

9/7 Sue Sharp  
9/9 Wayne Schlosser  
9/14 Louise Cohlmeier  
9/18 Dorothy Ovelgoenner  
9/23 Carol Randle  
9/23 Jennifer Hackbarth



## September Anniversaries:

9/17 Cindy & Clay Harris # 44  
9/25 Carol & Joe Bulva # 45  
9/30 Cassie & Edgar Myers # 10



## MEMORIALS:

For Jack Gammon  
Dorothy Ovelgoenner

## Remember our Shut-ins:

Ardella Morris  
1201 Hartman Lane  
Belleville, IL 62221

Darlene Bax  
220 Fieldcrossing Drive Apt. 40  
Highland, IL 62249

Terry Kissel  
429 South Main Street Room 494  
Shiloh, IL 62269

Jeanette Brown  
5904 Perrin Road  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

## **ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST:**

Urban Baum, Donna Isselhard, Joe Knapp, Jim Garrett, Agnes Doctolero, David Seneczyn, Cathy Ganschinietz, Rosemary Williams, Warren Neff, Jack Harris, Sherry Hackbarth, Doris Moody, Pastor Rosemary Captain.

(If there are names on this list that you believe can be removed, call the church secretary.)



## **USHERS**

- 9/5 Tom & Jan Miller
- 9/12 Chuck Kistler & Judy Hartmann
- 9/19 Lew Thomasino & Sue Williams
- 9/26 Eileen Gammon & Dorothy Ovelgoenner

## **Choir**

It is September, and choir will once again be singing. It will be so good to have a group together again! As long as we have a mask requirement for the sanctuary, the choir will video their performance in advance and it will be played during church.

This year we will have some paid singers. As in many other churches, volunteer choir members are in short supply. We will have three or four singers (one per part) who will supplement our ranks. The money to pay these singers will come from the Ed and Bernice Warning endowment fund.

YOU are still welcome to sing with the choir. My goal is to fill the sanctuary with sound! We rehearse and sing once a month, so I'm not asking for a weekly commitment. We'd love to have you.

Nancy Eisenhower

**October 3, 2021  
World Communion Sunday  
Riven Quartet**



The past few years we have had special music groups come to St. John to celebrate World Communion Sunday with us. This year is no different. Riven, a men's gospel quartet, will be with us. There are some familiar faces in the group. Gary Voelker, who grew up at St. John, sings with them as well as Gary Brannaman, from Fairview Heights, who formerly sang with Instruments of Faith. Scott Womble and Randy Pryor have also sung with the two Garys in other gospel groups.

Join us for a day of worshiping through music and communion on October 3!



Calling All St. John Ladies:

Fall is arriving shortly. Covid-19 doesn't seem a lot better, but we are able to attend church with precautions. I would like to try and have a short Evening Circle meeting after church services on Sept. 12, 2021. Please, please, consider if you would like to try and meet after church on Sundays or go back to an Evening meeting during the week. You may call Judy at church or myself to give us your thoughts before the meeting.

Stay safe & will see you on the 12th,  
Eileen Gammon Co-Chair

# September

2021

| Sunday                                 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday                               | Thursday            | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|---|---------------------|--------|----------|
|  |        |         | 1                                       | 2<br>AA<br>Meeting  | 3      | 4        |
| 5<br>Service of<br>Word &<br>Sacrament | 6      | 7       | 8<br>Church<br>Council 7 pm<br>Via Zoom | 9<br>AA<br>Meeting  | 10     | 11       |
| 12<br>Worship at<br>10 am              | 13     | 14      | 15                                      | 16<br>AA<br>Meeting | 17     | 18       |
| 19<br>Worship at<br>10 am              | 20     | 21      | 22                                      | 23<br>AA<br>Meeting | 24     | 25       |
| 26<br>Worship at<br>10 am              | 27     | 28      | 29                                      | 30<br>AA<br>Meeting |        |          |
|  |        |         |   |                     |        |          |